GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2275
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY AND EMPLOYMENT THROUGH AGRICULTURE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agriculture was assigned a special role in the Ninth Five Year Plan(1997-2002) to alleviate poverty and generate employment;

(b) if so, the rate of success in achieving these goals; and

(c) the reason for the shortfall in achieving the targets?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): Agriculture and allied activities have been one of the thrust areas during the Ninth Five Year Plan to increase production and productivity of agricultural/horticultural crops, animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries and other allied activities which also contribute in poverty alleviation and generation of employment. The Government is also implementing specific schemes for alleviation of poverty and gainful employment addressed to target groups including persons below poverty line, women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes both in rual and urban areas. Under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, 50 lakh tones of foodgrains worth Rs.5000crores are to be provided every year free of cost in addition to Rs.5000 crores to meet the cash component for wages and material cost. Also under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana, Rs.461 crore has been released in the first four years of the Ninth Plan, for the self employment and wage employment programmes. The number of persons below the poverty line has come down to 26.10 per cent in 1999-2000.